

# THE RISE THE RISE OF PUBLIC SCHOOL ADULT EDUCATION THE RISE

Vol. I, No. 3, November 1960

Dear Colleagues:

Final flash! Is there somewhere an adult education leader who did not begin making plans last spring for adult education day - November 12? We hope not but, even so, it's still not too late to cash in on this prime time for adult education promotion. Remember November 6-12 is AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK and the final day is set aside to mark adult education activities.

The television industry already has it's eyes on 1964 and even now is thinking about ways of effectively participating in the next presidential election! It may not be too early for adult educators to also begin laying some long range plans. Jack Gould, television editor of the New York Times has said that the overriding consideration of the Kennedy-Nixon debates is the stimulus to participation in public affairs. Adult education directors who have tied programs in with the T.V. debates, or who have arranged other public affairs programs during the campaign months, are entitled to take pride in their contribution to the democratic process.

The Uniondale High School in Long Island, organized a 7-week course on practical politics. Under the supervision of James Newcomb, the program covered political party organization, conventions, and party views on the 1960 campaign issues. The special course will conclude with a wind-up on the Tuesday after election day. In Ogden, Utah, groups met in each of the city's 22 elementary schools for non-partisan discussions of local, state and national issues. Source material for the discussions was provided by the Standard-Examiner, the local newspaper, and both political parties. In San Jose, Calif., the adult education branch of the San Jose Unified School District held a forum on alternate weeks with Republican and Democratic candidates participating.

For the first time, the 1960 campaign drew forth comments on adult education by both presidential candidates. Statements were released to the 9th Annual Conference of the Adult Education Association by Senator John F. Kennedy and Vice-President Richard M. Nixon. Both candidates favor it! A limited number of copies of the full text of their statements can be secured from Leadership Resources Incorporated, 5605 Lamar Road, Washington 16, D.C.

The White House Conference on Aging next January may turn out to be an effective national stimulus for securing increased resources for adult education. Resolutions will undoubtedly be passed by the Conference calling for increased expenditures to meet the educational needs of the aging. Other resolutions may have to do with the problems of training professional personnel to work in educational programs for the aging.

A preview of what may happen in the Washington, D.C., Conference, was the proposal for an expansion of adult education programs to help the aging, developed by the New York State Committee for the 1961 White House Conference on Aging. In September this group adopted a resolution calling for an expansion of adult education "in every school district to provide educational-recreational opportunities for retired persons." The proposal also states that schools should provide re-training for older persons and classes in the preparation for retirement.



There are two ways in which directors and teachers of adult education in every community can help ensure resolutions of this kind being formulated by the national conference. First, it is important for the director to find out who from his community and state is a delegate to the White House Conference, and particularly who will be participating in the section on education. Second, it is important for the local director of adult education or local adult educators to talk with these delegates and help explain and interpret ways in which existing adult educational facilities can be used to strengthen programs for the aging.

Biggest news in adult education during the month of October came out of Denver and the NAPSAE/AEA Conference. Of immediate interest to NAPSAE is the fact that dues for primarily full-time teachers and administrators of adults were raised to \$10.00. Associate Memberships for primarily part-time personnel, particularly part-time teachers of adults, remain at \$2.00. The new dues structure is part of NAPSAE's program to gain a greatly increased measure of self-support. Full information on this important change in NAPSAE's program is now being prepared and will be sent to each member of the Association.

In an amendment to the NAPSAE Constitution, steps were taken to more closely relate NAPSAE to the policy and administrative structure of NEA. And during the AEA Conference, steps were taken to ensure NAPSAE's continued close policy participation in the program of the AEA.

Key speakers at the joint Conference of NAPSAE and AEA were Arthur Corey, Executive Secretary of the California Teachers Association; Ed Henderson, Executive Secretary of the Florida Education Association; and Robert J. Blakely, Vice President of the Fund for Adult Education. In November a report of NAPSAE's Denver Conference will be issued to all members. In the meantime, any member of NAPSAE wishing a copy of the Constitution as amended at Denver, may secure one by writing to the NAPSAE office.

NAPSAE's outstanding service award this year went to R.J. Pulling, Chief of the Bureau of Adult Education, New York State. "Awards of Merit" were awarded by NAPSAE this year for the first time. The initial awards went to Charles S. Mott, founder of the Mott Foundation which has contributed substantial funds for the adult education program of the Flint Public Schools, and Thomas D. Bailey, Superintendent of Public Instruction in Florida. The award to Dr. Bailey was given in recognition of the outstanding address delivered before a general session of the American Association of School Administrators in Atlantic City last February.

The Denver Public Schools adult education television station, KRMA, had the largest viewing audience in its history recently when it was one of the seven television stations in the United States which carried the now celebrated interview between David Susskind and Nikita Khrushchchev on the program "Open End." The only commercial station to carry the program was New York's WNTA-TV; elsewhere in the country it was carried by six educational television stations.

Hagerstown, Maryland, which has won quite a reputation for its use of television in the instruction of elementary and secondary pupils, has now initiated its first televised adult education offering ... a course on reading and vocabulary improvement. Special equipment and methods are being used to help adult readers learn to read faster and with greater comprehension. Individuals taking the course go to their nearest high school. The "speed reading course" is a part of the Hagerstown Junior College adult education program."

The potential of television for instruction to adults is suggested by a recent report of the Learning Resources Institute which estimated that during the 1958-59 school year, 569 public school systems and 117 colleges and universities in America use television for direct instruction involving more than 500,000 school children and 100,000 college students.

Names in the news. Robert J. Blakely, Vice-President of the Fund for Adult Education, has accepted a position as Dean of Extension and Professor of Adult Education at the University of Iowa. He will begin his duties there in the spring. William M. Barr, Director of the Millburn Adult School, has been elected President of the New Jersey Adult Education Association. Aaron DeKosky is the retiring President. State Senator Harry E. Seyler of Pennsylvania, said in a recent address that adult education is as much a responsibility of the state as is the universal education of young people, and made the rather unique point that it must provide "remedial education" for high school graduates who wish to take class work which they missed during the time they were completing their secondary education. In September Mrs. Helen G. Lynch retired as Supervisor of Adult Education for the Chicago Board of Education. Mrs. Lynch has served the adult education program in the Chicago Public Schools for more than 25 years. John H. Thatcher of Albany, N.Y., represented NAPSAE at a planning conference of representatives of national educational groups who met in Washington, D.C., recently, as part of a cooperative project on personnel accounting for local and state school systems. The project is part of a long-range effort of the U.S. Office of Education to obtain standardized terminology, measures, and definitions. Homer Kempfer, who has served for the past several years as consultant in adult education for the U.S. Technical Mission to India, has now begun service as Deputy Chief of the education division of the Technical Cooperation Mission. Dr. & Mrs. Kempfer will return to Washington during the middle of December and be in the United States through the end of January. Donald S. Wood, formerly Director of Adult Education at Honeoye Central School District at Hornell, N.Y., has been appointed Assistant in Adult Civic Education with the Bureau of Adult Education for the New York State Department of Education. Irving H. Becker has been appointed by the Council of National Organizations for Adult Education as Executive Secretary. Mr. Becker replaces Mrs. Lois R. McCarthy who is returning to an Executive position with the Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. Mr. Becker recently served as Training Officer for the U.S. Technical Cooperation Mission to India. The award for distinguished service to adult education which is given annually by the New Jersey Association for Adult Education, was presented to Theodore P. Gnagey of Maplewood at the annual conference of the Association held in September. Murle Hayden has been named Director of Adult Education for the state of Kansas. Mr. Hayden received his appointment as a result of a grant to the state of Kansas from NAPSAE for the purpose of establishing this department within the State Department of Education.

Want to work in New York State? On January 21, the New York State Department of Civil Service will conduct examinations for Assistant in Adult Education in the Bureau of Adult Education. The salary range is \$6,732 - \$8,142. For further details write the Recruitment Unit, Box 4P, New York State Department of Civil Service, 1220 Washington Avenue, Albany, New York.

Since the appearance of Volume I, No. I, of PULSE, it has had a heart-warming reception from many adult educators here in the United States. The first comment from abroad came in a letter from E.M. Hutchinson, Secretary of the National Institute of Adult Education for England and Wales. Mr. Hutchinson writes that "We have been studying - the PULSE - with care, because although the idiom is different (department of typical understatement?) there are plenty of ideas in it."



In the mail. This is part of a letter recently received from James Le Vine of Hawaii. "About three weeks ago, wanting to improve our administrative practices and to get some good ideas from other parts of the country, we sent a letter of request to a large number of members listed in the NAPSAE directory. We had envisioned receiving a few scattered replies, perhaps a couple of dozen or so. We want to tell you that we couldn't have been more wrong! The response was overwhelming !! At this date, three weeks later, we have received at least 400 pieces of literature, including many personal letters, chock full of good advice, suggestions, and leads to other sources of materials -- and they're still coming in. We are honestly amazed, and deeply touched, by the warm spirit of friendliness, helpfulness and generosity exhibited by the membership in their replies to our request. We are also somewhat at a loss to know how to express our gratitude and appreciation for all of this kindness and eager cooperation. Could you help us -- by thanking them collectively and publicly -- until we have a chance to do it individually and personally?"

In Bergen County, N.J., and in Ann Arbor, Mich., adult education directors have cooperated in issuing a single brochure. The Ann Arbor Public Evening School, the University of Michigan Extension Service, and the Division of Adult Education of Wayne State University, all presented their Ann Arbor courses in a single publication. In New Jersey, the Bergen County Adult Education Council, an organization of seventeen public adult schools issued a publication of 218 adult education activities representing offerings of seventeen Bergen County public school adult education programs.

Cordially,

*Robert A. Luke*  
Executive Secretary

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APPLICATION TO  
MAIL AT  
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